

Colombian President Rolls Out Red Carpet for British Prince Charles



Bogotá, October 30 (RHC-EFE) -- Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos on Wednesday received Britain's Prince Charles at Casa Nariño with full military honours during the British heir's first official visit to the South American nation.

Santos and his wife, Maria Clemencia Rodriguez, welcomed Charles and his wife Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, at the Colombian presidential residence, where the Presidential Guard accorded the royal guests full military honors.

Also present at the welcoming ceremony were the Colombian ministers of foreign affairs, Maria Angela Holguin; defense, Juan Carlos Pinzon; the treasury, Mauricio Cardenas; and the environment, Gabriel Vallejo, as well as the commander of the armed forces, Gen. Juan Pablo Rodriguez.

Santos and the prince reviewed the South American nation's troops and then the two held a private meeting where they reportedly discussed issues ranging from protection of the environment to combating narcotics.

Prince Charles' schedule in Bogotá includes assorted activities, including a visit to the La Macarena National Park in central Meta province on Thursday.

The royal guests travel Thursday to the colonial city of Cartagena and the Macarena National Park in Colombia. A number of activities are scheduled for Friday for the royal couple in Cartagena, where they will conclude their official visit.

Charles and Camilla will remain in Cartagena until Sunday, when they will travel to Mexico, the other country they are visiting on their Latin American tour.

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